

Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
9/17/12 – 9/30/12

DISTRICT 1

CO Brian Bacon walked into a trail which he thought led to bear bait. After a short walk, it was evident the trail did not lead to a bear bait, but to marijuana plants. Thirty mature marijuana plants were located and seized with the assistance of Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers.

CO Dave Miller responded to a bear hunter harassment complaint. After investigating the incident, he determined both parties were at fault and issued several verbal warnings.

CO Dave Miller investigated a complaint of a subject bragging about shooting a sow bear with cubs. While the subject would not confess to the violation, he was ticketed for possessing an untagged bear.

CO Doug Hermanson worked snagging complaints in the Falls River, and ticketed two subjects for snagging.

CO Brian Bacon and Sgt. Marc Pomroy worked a complaint of bear hound hunters trespassing and illegally harvesting a bear from private property. With the assistance of COs Quincy Gowenlock, Jeremy Payne, Dan Lee and Ken Lowell, multiple search warrants were executed on residences in lower Michigan. A 500 pound trophy bear hide was seized, along with other evidence related to the illegal taking of this trophy black bear. Charges are being sought through the Dickinson County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Dave Painter responded to the complaint of a deer being shot behind a residence and hanging in the woods without a tag on it. CO Painter interviewed the suspect who denied knowing anything about a deer being shot. When CO Painter walked him over to the deer hanging in the woods behind the house, his story quickly changed. The subject admitted to shooting the 6 point buck in his garden a few nights before. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Marvin Gerlach received an anonymous complaint of a subject hunting bear in the Carney Bear Management Unit (BMU) without the proper license. CO Gerlach investigated the complaint and located two subjects hunting bear with rifles during the third season in the Carney Unit using third season Bergland BMU licenses. The subjects were dressed in full camouflage and were not wearing any hunter orange. The firearms and licenses of both men were seized and tickets were written to both subjects regarding the license and the hunter orange issues.

CO Marvin Gerlach assisted in a group patrol effort in Ontonagon County with Sgts. Pete Wright and Darryl Shann. Numerous violations were encountered and addressed including hunt from motor vehicle, uncased/loaded firearm in motor vehicle, and various ORV violations.

CO Dave Painter worked the grouse decoy in Iron County to target road hunting activity, which was steady by the decoy, with one shooter taking aim from a vehicle. A check of the vehicle revealed open beer and each subject had marijuana on their person. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 2

CO Mike Hammill was on routine patrol when he observed the truck of a bear hunter parked in the woods. Because it was close to the end of the hunting hours he decided to wait for the hunter at his truck to see how his season was going. The end of hunting hours came and went and no hunter. Then 45 minutes after hours a light appeared in the woods and contact was made with the subject, who was holding a loaded pistol in his hand. When ordered to put the gun away the subject refused, and finally after being told the third time he complied and holstered the gun. When asked why he was out so late after hunting hours the subject replied that his bear stand was a mile away. The CO then asked to see the hunting stand and the subject reluctantly took him to the stand, which took less than four minutes to get to. It was obvious that the subject was hunting after hours. In addition, he was hunting from an illegal stand, illegally using screw-in tree steps and didn't have any hunter orange. Enforcement action taken.

CO Kyle Publiski responded to a house fire in which it was reported that a man was still trapped inside. Upon arrival, the home was fully engulfed and the trapped man burst through a glass window. The subject was cut in several places, had back and chest pains and was suffering from smoke inhalation. The CO assisted the fire department with first aid until the ambulance arrived.

CO Kyle Publiski responded to a complaint of a subject driving his ORV through the Carp River, and upon arrival, located the subject who was fishing on the other side of the River. The ORV tracks told the story as the subject caused extensive erosion in a wetland area, down the beach and then through the mouth of the Carp River. A ticket was issued for operating an ORV in a wetland.

CO Kyle Publiski checked a group of anglers on the Carp River who were snagging fish and had six pink salmon over the limit. Tickets were issued and the salmon seized.

CO Mike Hammill was on routine patrol when he observed a motor vehicle stopped down a two-track on state land. As the CO proceeded down the road a subject ran from the woods and jumped into the passenger seat and the vehicle sped off. The CO was able to make contact as the passenger struggled to get his gun unloaded. Further investigation revealed that they were road hunting for grouse. The CO located several grouse in the back of the truck that were completely dressed out with no feathers

remaining. A full confession was then obtained that the subjects were also shooting protected spruce grouse. In the end the two subjects had shot eight birds, six of which were spruce grouse. Tickets were issued and the illegal birds seized.

CO Kevin Postma was on routine waterfowl patrol when he encountered two subjects who possessed several different kinds of lead shot. Further investigation revealed that they didn't have any life jackets on the boat. Tickets were issued. Later in the day CO Postma set up surveillance on another crew of goose hunters. The CO patiently waited as the crew took their full limit of geese. The crew continued to hunt and took a few more birds before they were done. They were issued tickets for an overlimit of geese and the illegal geese were seized.

CO Jerry Fitzgibbon followed up on an early bait he found during patrols. He contacted a hunter who had not only placed deer bait early, but he also had trail cam pictures and video indicating he was baiting as early as September 8th. A video showed the hunter and his friend placing another early bait two miles from the first. The hunter confessed when asked about the violations and was written a ticket for early bait.

CO Mike Evink, while patrolling for illegal baits and illegal ORV trails, located thirty marijuana plants. The case was turned over to the drug enforcement team for the Upper Peninsula.

CO Jared Ferguson was checking for late waterfowl hunters near the Escanaba River when he heard a rifle shot nearby. He contacted a male subject who had shot a doe just after dark. Tickets were issued and the deer and rifle were seized.

DISTRICT 3

CO Mike Feagan observed an angler with an unbaited treble hook and large sinker trying to snag fish on a river. When contacted, the angler stated that he had bait, but it was in his truck and he didn't feel like getting it. What he did get was a ticket for attempting to snag fish.

CO Andrea Erratt received a complaint from duck hunters, of other duck hunters shooting a swan. CO Erratt contacted the subjects and received a confession. She then kayaked into the marsh and found the nearly dead trumpeter swan. Upon checking their other birds, she found a pie-billed grebe, which is also protected. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Sklba received a complaint of a badger killed out of season and a 330 conibear trap set on dry land. The trap also did not have a tag on it. After investigating, CO Sklba located the trapper and interviewed him, obtaining a confession. Enforcement action was taken.

A late night patrol by CO Andrea Albert resulted in the ticketing of two subjects for attempting to net salmon on the Boyne River. One subject would use a light to locate

the salmon while the second tried to net them with a large landing net. When CO Albert advised she had been watching them for 45 minutes, the subjects quickly admitted to the violation and said it is hard to net salmon in the river.

CO Bill Webster contacted four waterfowl hunters who had driven an ORV through a wetland; and while checking their licenses and firearms, found three unplugged guns. The hunters also did not have their federal and Michigan Waterfowl licenses and were ticketed for their violations.

CO Mark DePew contacted three individuals who had cut 30-40 standing oak trees on state land. The subjects also did not have a wood cutting permit which would have allowed them to cut dead and down trees. They were ticketed and had their chain saws seized.

CO Mark DePew contacted an archery hunter who had put out bait on state land prior to October 1st and had also dumped a truckload of carrots, bread and salt blocks. The hunter was going out west to hunt and wanted to make sure there was enough bait out to keep the deer coming in while he was gone.

COs Nick Torsky and Jon Sklba worked an early strike bait on the hound opener for bear in the Red Oak BMU, and had contacted a hunter who was checking it for activity. He was ticketed for the early bear bait.

DISTRICT 4

A search for a man who had sexually assaulted his 12 year old daughter led police to a wooded section of Manistee and Lake Counties. CO Carla Soper located the man on a remote back road, along with a LRB Tribal CO. The man was armed with a loaded handgun and had it sitting on his front passenger seat. The man was taken into custody by the COs and turned over to the Sheriff Department and MSP.

CO Carla Soper was covertly patrolling a local creek in Manistee County when two anglers arrived and began informing other anglers that "...the blonde CO was down here two days ago writing tickets to everybody, so watch out." The same two persons then went down and snagged two fish. CO Soper caught up with them as they were leaving with the fish and asked why they didn't heed their own warnings. They advised they wanted a fish so bad, they had to do it. Both subjects also had priors for taking fish not hooked in the mouth. The two were ticketed for second offense snagging.

COs Carla Soper, Angela Greenway and Sgt. Kevin Hackworth worked a joint foot patrol on Huff Creek targeting persons illegally taking salmon. After a short time three separate groups of anglers arrived and began chasing salmon on foot, shaking logs, throwing rocks at fish and attempting to snag fish by various methods. One subject was able to hook a salmon by hand by inserting a hook into the fish's mouth and manually impaling the hook as the tired fish swam in a log jam. After hand-hooking the fish the subject told his wife to start reeling. The pair then went upstream where the wife

excitedly informed her husband that she had caught one by herself. After all persons and fish were gathered up, a total of eight tickets had been issued and six fish had been confiscated.

CO Steve Converse was patrolling on a dirt road when two persons on ORVs failed to yield and nearly hit his patrol truck. The two operators sped off down the road without stopping. CO Converse followed the two individuals and eventually got one stopped. After issuing a ticket CO Converse handed his business card to the person and asked if he would pass it on to the person who failed to stop. The other operator called the next day and was issued a ticket for the careless operation. The operator claimed to have had his iPod headphones in and his music turned up so he did not hear or see the CO attempting to stop him.

CO Angela Greenway was conducting a patrol targeting bear hunters in Lake County when she observed a person operating an ORV under power lines in a closed area. As CO Greenway was attempting to get to the ORV she saw a second person on an ORV operating in a wetland behind her. CO Greenway stopped the operator. While speaking with the operator she saw a third quad stuck in the wetland in some cattails. The person in the cattails saw the CO and immediately fled the scene. CO Greenway radioed CO Jeff Ginn to see if he could catch up with this subject. CO Ginn was able to track the ORV and caught up with the operator. CO Ginn received an admission from the operator that he had seen the CO wave him over and had intentionally fled the scene. Tickets were issued for operating in a wetland and failing to stop for an officer.

CO Sam Koscinski is investigating a complaint from a concerned citizen about a four year old alleged to have killed a nice buck under the new youth mentor license during the youth hunting weekend. Investigation continues but it was also ascertained that this same youth was reported to have killed a turkey under the youth mentor license this past spring.

Sgt. Robert Torres checked anglers fishing for salmon along the Boardman River. Two anglers were contacted with no violations observed. Approximately an hour later Sgt. Torres observed a salmon snagged and put on a stringer downstream from where he previously contacted the two anglers. Upon contact the anglers admitted to knowing it was illegal to keep the fish and that they had no reason for what they did. Sgt. Torres then realized these were the same two anglers he had checked earlier. Both subjects had switched hats so Sgt. Torres had not immediately recognized them. Both knew Sgt. Torres was working the area but just could not resist keeping the fish and thought by moving away from the direction Sgt. Torres had walked upstream that they would not be detected.

CO Sean Kehoe located a trail camera and bait on state land prior to October 1. Bait was placed out on September 4th. On October 1st CO Kehoe contacted the hunter. Photos from the trail camera showed that the hunter had deer, two cub bears, raccoons, and squirrels all enjoying the bait pile over the course of several weeks. Enforcement action taken.

CO Sam Koscinski observed two waterfowl hunters in a field close to the end of hunting hours on the opening weekend of waterfowl hunting. CO Koscinski set up a surveillance point and watched as the hunters shot at waterfowl approximately 20 minutes after legal hunting hours. When contacted, one of the waterfowl hunters did not have a license. Tickets were issued.

During the early antlerless season, CO Mike Wells responded to a trespass complaint on property that was in the process of foreclosure. The hunter had been advised by the bank to not be on the property. CO Wells located the subjects, who were in full camouflage, running out of the woods toward an ORV. CO Wells located blood and hair in the ORV that indicated an animal was taken. The subjects were also baiting prior to October 1st. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy VanGelderren was heading home after a long patrol when a call for a missing person was overheard on the radio. Three fire departments and local deputies were already responding to help with the search. CO VanGelderren recognized the area as the Pentwater State Game Area (SGA). CO VanGelderren patrolled to his residence, picked up his motorcycle and rain gear and drove in the rain to the last known location of the missing person. CO VanGelderren went immediately to the most confusing area of the pathways and began his search. Within a short period of time CO VanGelderren located the lost woman. It was raining so hard and it was so dark that she was found on her hands and knees on the trail. She advised CO VanGelderren she was on her hands and knees so she would stay on the trail. CO VanGelderren used his motorcycle headlight to guide the lost woman back to safety.

CO Troy VanGelderren of Oceana County was patrolling the waterfowl opener when he heard several shots in the distance. It took several hours of checking other waterfowl hunters and continuously hearing the shots to find the hunters' location. Upon contacting the group, two of the three did not have waterfowl hunting licenses. The unlicensed hunters could not believe a CO found them in their secret hunting spot. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lebel responded to a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint of subjects hunting waterfowl in a closed area, and found four persons hunting the south zone a week before the opener. The subjects were in possession of unplugged firearms, had taken several ducks, and were hunting during a closed season. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy Mueller of Osceola County received multiple complaints of cattle fencing crossing the Hersey River. CO Mueller and Sgt. Mike Bomay investigated the area and located the property owners. The property owners agreed to remove the 20+ year old fencing with the help from the Officers. Lt. Dave Shaw and CO Brian Lebel helped CO Mueller and Sgt. Bomay remove the fencing and cleared the river for recreational use.

CO Jeff Ginn of Newaygo County responded to a RAP complaint of trespass during the early antlerless season. CO Ginn arrived on scene and interviewed the shooter who

was licensed for the season. Upon further investigation and contacting witnesses, CO Ginn was able to obtain a confession for hunting from a vehicle. In addition to the trespass the subject shot his rifle from the vehicle. The firearm was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Ginn was patrolling area two-tracks when he located an unoccupied vehicle that appeared to belong to small game hunters. CO Ginn tracked the hunters into the woods and located them. CO Ginn watched as the hunters removed their blaze orange hunting clothing and crossed a fence onto private property. CO Ginn immediately contacted the hunters and tickets were issued.

CO Jeff Ginn responded to an area where he found bait established for deer prior to October 1st. CO Ginn located a hunter who had just shot a doe over the bait during the early antlerless season, and enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 5

CO Chuck McPherson contacted four subjects standing around a vehicle parked on state land. While talking with the subjects CO McPherson observed numerous empty plastic bait bags in the bed of the truck. All four individuals indicated they had just baited several weeks before the legal start day. The illegal baits were located and found to be well over the two gallon limit. Four illegal blinds were also found.

CO Mike Hearn assisted a deputy on a domestic dispute complaint with a trespass, assault and possible weapons involved. CO Hearn talked to one subject who indicated the dispute was over drugs and stated that he had dumped the drugs in the woods. The subject then led CO Hearn to the area he'd indicated, but no drugs were found. The subject later admitted to CO Hearn he had hidden the drugs in the wood pile. CO Hearn recovered heroin, methamphetamine, and oxycodone that had been stashed.

CO Jason McCullough investigated a complaint of a subject posting state land. He located the individual who was also using an ORV illegally on state land. He had cut several large trees and then used them to make a log cabin style blind out of which to hunt bear. He also blocked the two-track road so no one could get in. Tickets were issued.

DISTRICT 6

COs Seth Rhodea and Jason Smith were working an area where complaints had been received about shining after midnight. Just before 3:00 a.m. the COs located a subject shining from his vehicle. A traffic stop was made and the subject was ticketed for shining after 11:00 p.m. and in possession of a bow.

CO Seth Rhodea contacted several anglers in Port Sanilac fishing from a small boat. While the anglers were in compliance with all fishing laws, their boat had not been registered in over a decade. A ticket was issued for operating an unregistered boat.

CO Seth Rhodea received a complaint involving a subject putting pictures of two bucks his son shot during the youth weekend on Facebook. Upon contacting the father, he admitted to the overlimit and showed CO Rhodea the deer, in addition to several other deer he was storing at his house for family members. Upon checking tags on all the deer, none were found to be validated. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chad Foerster has been working the Saginaw Bay area where large amounts of perch are currently being taken by hook and line. One angler was in possession of an overlimit of 50 perch. Enforcement action was taken and the perch were seized.

CO Joshua Wright responded to the same residence twice within the span of two weeks for illegal burning complaints. During the first incident, the homeowner was burning a demolished barn; and in the second instance he was burning old building materials and tires. The fire department and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) were called to scene. Charges are being sought through the local prosecutor's office for both violations.

CO Joshua Wright received a complaint of subjects hunting geese after legal hours. Upon setting up on a group of goose hunters, the CO contacted them 18 minutes after legal shooting hours had ended. All of the hunters' firearms were still loaded and they were still blowing their goose calls. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Quincy Gowenlock found a vehicle parked in the Gratiot/Saginaw SGA with a trailer and ramps. When the CO stopped he could hear an engine running in a field. Upon investigating the noise he found where a trail had been cut through a grass field with a lawn mower. The CO followed the trail and came across three subjects with a riding mower. When asked, they admitted to cutting the trail to make it easier for them to get their stands back into the woods. All three admitted to being lazy and knew they were not allowed to do it. They were told to immediately stop and left the area with a verbal warning.

CO Quincy Gowenlock received a complaint regarding a subject recreational trespassing behind a church. The CO was then called by a US Fish & Wildlife Officer who located the subject and found out he shot a doe. Upon arrival CO Gowenlock contacted the subject who admitted shooting a doe. He admitted he found the blood trail but was unable to locate the deer. The entire time the subject made comments about how late it was, he was tired, he had to work early in the morning and was going to come back in the morning with his son to find the deer. CO Gowenlock told the subject that they were going to find the deer now and not later. They all followed the blood trail which the subject pointed out and located a small buck which had been shot 15 yards from the last blood sign. When confronted, the subject stated he did not shoot that deer because he shot his on the right side and this one was wounded on the left. After dispatching the buck, CO Gowenlock rolled it over and located the entrance wound on the right side. When confronted with this, the subject said he heard a shot around 5:00 pm and that must be someone else's deer.

While patrolling Isabella County during the twilight hours of the final day of the youth and early antlerless deer hunt, CO Larn R. Strawn observed a truck travelling with no headlights. After stopping the vehicle and contacting the driver, CO Strawn was immediately met with contempt by the driver, who said he was in a hurry and didn't have time to be harassed by a Conservation Officer. The driver refused to provide the required registration and insurance documents to Officer Strawn, stating he didn't have time to look for them, and told Officer Strawn to hurry up and do what he had to do. Officer Strawn sensed the man was trying to hide something and there was much more to the situation than simply a guy in a hurry. After a closer look and more conversation with the driver, CO Strawn discovered an uncased loaded shotgun behind the driver's seat. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Lowell received a complaint of a hunter shooting a deer out of season and on another person's property. Officer Lowell contacted and interviewed the suspect at his residence, where he observed fresh blood on the subject's shoes. A confession to killing a doe out of season was obtained and the suspect went to jail on a warrant.

CO Dan Lee responded to a complaint of a deer carcass found in a burn pit with an unvalidated tag nearby. The caller stated the deer was shot on Saturday morning and the hunter went out again Sunday morning as well. Officer Lee checked the licenses purchased by the hunter and found that two antlerless licenses had been purchased but one had been purchased on Sunday afternoon. CO Lee contacted the suspect who admitted to shooting the deer on Saturday and not tagging it. He then went out hunting again on Sunday. He heard that people were talking about his activities so he put his first tag with the deer carcass from Saturday and bought another license. Tickets were issued.

While at a gas station CO Dan Lee met some north zone duck hunters on their way home. They said that it was their first time duck hunting and they had a blast. They told Officer Lee that they had gotten a couple wood ducks and about six black ducks. CO Lee asked the excited hunters if he could check them out. The hunters produced two wood ducks and six coots. Officer Lee explained the bag limits for waterfowl hunting and explained they had not shot any black ducks, which was both good for them and bad for them, since they had a pile of coots

COs Joel Lundberg and Jay Person are seeking a warrant for a property owner who reportedly assaulted an angler fishing in a boat. The property owner advised the angler that he could not be fishing the water where he was located, and the angler advised the property owner he was legally fishing. The property owner disappeared and returned with a fire extinguisher and emptied the contents of the fire extinguisher onto the angler and his boat. The angler stated he was not able to see or breathe after the incident, but was able to move his boat and call the Conservation Officers and report the incident afterwards. Charges are being pursued.

DISTRICT 7

CO Chris Holmes received a complaint of a subject who shot a buck while trespassing in Van Buren County. CO Holmes contacted the complainant and went to the location of the incident. The deer, tree stand and subject were gone upon his arrival. The CO interviewed several subjects in the area and found that the subject fled in a car when he saw the patrol truck. CO Holmes gathered evidence at the scene and found the suspect 25 miles away at his girlfriend's house. The Officer interviewed the subject and obtained a full confession. Enforcement action taken.

CO Chris Holmes initiated an investigation of a subject who was thought to be deer hunting while his hunting privileges were revoked. The revocation stemmed from a conviction in 2011 where Officer Holmes pulled the subject over for shining deer and found the subject in possession of a loaded crossbow. After several hours of surveillance and interviews the CO found that the subject had shot a doe and tagged it with his girlfriend's unlawfully purchased license. The deer and firearm were seized and multiple charges will be sought on three subjects involved in the unlawful killing of the deer.

CO Andy Bauer was called to a safety zone complaint. Upon arrival, he located a hunter inside a blind hunting antlerless deer only 90 feet away from the complainant's pole building. Upon contacting the subject, CO Bauer discovered that the subject was not wearing his hunter orange. CO Bauer ticketed the subject for the safety zone violation and warned him for failing to wear the required hunter orange.

COs Chris Holmes and Patrick McManus came across several vehicles operating on state land in a closed area. While making contact, Officer Holmes observed two passengers in a vehicle making furtive movements when they saw the COs. Two of the occupants turned out to be minors in possession of alcohol. Another driver of a vehicle who was stuck was also in possession of alcohol. Enforcement action was taken for the illegal operation and alcohol.

COs Jeff Robinette and Brad Brewer were on patrol near the Three Rivers SGA when they crested a hill and had to swerve to avoid hitting an ORV that was being driven down the middle of the road. On the ORV were a young boy and his father, neither of whom were wearing helmets. The COs followed the ORV back to their residence, where enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Brewer pulled into a parking lot at a fishing site on the St. Joseph River and observed a woman at the rear of her car. Upon seeing CO Brewer, she immediately closed the trunk and began walking back down to the river where she met her husband. CO Brewer checked a couple that they were fishing with, who were nearing their limit of panfish, but the woman and her husband only had 13 fish in their possession. CO Brewer asked if there were fish in the car, and the woman sheepishly admitted that there were fish in the trunk. CO Brewer checked the fish in the trunk and found 56 panfish, in addition to the 13 that they had at the river. Enforcement action was taken for the 19 panfish over the limit.

DISTRICT 8

COs Derek Miller, Damon Owens, and Shane Webster received an early antlerless season complaint about a man and his son who shot a buck. The COs responded to the complaint and found the two grown men hunting on state land and they had shot a buck instead of an antlerless deer. While investigating the complaint the COs also found one of the subjects had outstanding DNR warrants from a previous multiple illegal deer case. The deer was seized and charges were filed against one of the men. The other hunter was lodged in the Washtenaw County jail.

CO Damon Owens received information of a subject allegedly selling wild game from his residence during a garage sale. CO Owens and CO Shane Webster conducted an undercover investigation of the allegations, which led to wild game being sold unlawfully to CO Webster. CO Owens contacted the subject who admitted to the violation and stated he was only clearing out his freezer to make room for this year's meat to be stored. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Derek Miller was working on the Huron River when he saw a group of anglers on a railroad trestle where there have been problems in the past. CO Miller went out on foot and observed the subjects from across the river. CO Miller finally contacted the anglers and advised them that the "No Trespassing" signs they walked past were there for a reason. CO Miller also asked them about the beer cans they were throwing into the woods and advised that he had been there for quite some time observing them. To make matters worse the subjects also had an overlimit of pan fish. They were all ticketed for the violations.

CO Brian Fish received a RAP complaint of an illegal deer taken by subjects in the Union City area. CO Fish responded, interviewed several subjects and recovered the deer and firearm. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bader took a complaint of a subject who killed an antlerless deer on September 16th. CO Bader determined the subject's identity and interviewed him at his residence. He was open about the deer he shot and didn't try to hide any details. When asked when the season started, he said September 15th and produced a 2011 hunting guide and showed the CO the season date. CO Bader advised him that the dates change every year, and the season doesn't start until September 22nd this year. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bader stopped a truck on state land that is closed to vehicle traffic. There was an uncased muzzleloader in the back seat. The subject assured the CO that it didn't have a primer in it, but was fairly sure it was loaded. A ticket was issued.

CO Dan Bigger received information regarding work on a new house construction near the river. As this is an area of the river CO Bigger frequently kayaks, he was able to locate the area and observe that the owners were filling in an area near the river with fill dirt. CO Bigger observed the vegetation and several wetland plants that had been

uprooted and were being covered up. The contractor on site admitted that he had 500 yards of fill brought in. CO Bigger met with a DEQ Wetlands Specialist at the site and the property owner and adult children were advised that the area filled in was wetland and also within the flood plane. The situation became slightly volatile but tempers were quickly cooled and the property owners were informed that the wetlands needed to be returned to natural state and all fill removed. CO Bigger turned the case over for continued follow up to DEQ.

COs Dan Bigger and Pete Purdy responded to a trespass complaint where the subjects had shot a small doe. Upon arrival the property owner was very frustrated at the trespassers for uprooting an oak tree and placing their blind on a newly planted white pine. The complainant stated the doe was tossed over one hunter's shoulder and was extremely small. CO Bigger immediately recognized one of the subjects as a person who was arrested in 2010 in an illegal deer case not far from this location. Further investigation revealed that the doe was not shot on the complainant's property, but the hunters were trespassing. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Bigger responded to an ORV complaint near the Looking Glass River. Upon arrival, a foot patrol was conducted and several vehicle tracks were found, some entering the river. The operators appeared to have gotten stuck at one point in the river. CO Bigger continued following the tracks and observed the ORV being loaded onto a trailer in the next section. CO Bigger advised dispatch of the situation and ran back to his vehicle. CO Bigger was able to locate the truck, trailer, and ORV as they attempted to get away. A stop was made and further investigation determined that the operator of the truck was operating on a suspended license. Warrants for the ORV activity and driving on while suspended are being sought.

CO Pete Purdy received a RAP complaint of a subject who was bragging that he had placed deer bait prior to the antlerless season and didn't feel he would get caught. The complainant was upset with this and made a RAP complaint. CO Purdy located the deer bait with a pop up blind and trail cam over the bait pile one day before the antlerless deer season began. The subject received a ticket.

CO Pete Purdy was patrolling the Hillcrest SGA speaking with a group of small game hunters who were complaining about the illegal ORV activity in the area spoiling their hunting. As they were speaking, CO Purdy spotted an ORV in the game area and stopped the operator. The subject was operating in a closed area, not wearing a helmet, and transporting a passenger who also wasn't wearing a helmet. The ORV was unlicensed and the operator drove on the roadway to get to the SGA. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pete Purdy contacted a group of three anglers. The first angler advised he didn't have a license and said that he didn't have time to buy a license, even though he traveled 30 miles to reach the lake, and purchased beer for himself and the other two anglers prior to getting there. He was issued a ticket for fish without license. The second angler had a fishing license; however he had a misdemeanor warrant for fishing

without license in 2011 in Lapeer County. The third angler didn't have a license and had over \$120,000 in child support warrants out of Genesee County. He was issued a ticket for fish without license. Additional enforcement action was taken.

CO Pete Purdy checked a fenced and posted "No Trespassing" parcel of private property where he has received past complaints of trespassing. The property borders a lake and many people ignore the fence and sign and fish on the property. CO Purdy contacted a subject crossing back over the fence, and pointed out the obvious fence that the subject had to negotiate around and the "No Trespassing" sign. The subject responded, "I saw the sign when I crossed the fence, but how am I going to fish the other side of the lake?" CO Purdy contacted the property owner who advised he wanted the subject prosecuted and was very delighted a trespasser was caught and charged. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 9

CO Linda Scheidler responded to a complaint of two subjects offloading ORVs and bags near a large field. The CO responded and followed the ORV tracks back into the woods and found a clearing with a food plot under a tree stand. She followed another trail which led her to another small opening in the woods with a blind and a broadcast spreader, corn underneath it and a mineral block. This was located prior to October 1st. Enforcement action was taken to address the early bait violations.

With binoculars, CO Kris Kiel watched a small group of anglers fishing. When the CO approached, he noticed the last angler in line carefully set his pole down and walked away, talking on his cell phone. When the CO made his way to the angler and asked to see his fishing license, the subject said that he was not fishing. When the CO informed the subject that he had been watching him for some time, the subject stated that he was only "testing out a lure." The subject further explained that he does not fish much, but had been warned before for fishing without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel received a complaint from the Harsens Island Managed Hunting Unit about a vehicle that was broken down inside the closed area. The CO ran the plate and contacted the registered owner by phone. The subject stated that he drove into the area because the gate was open, but broke down. The subject was ordered to get the vehicle removed by the next day or it would be towed. Enforcement action was taken for operating in a closed area.

CO Todd Szyska received a RAP complaint regarding a subject throwing a deer carcass into a fenced in yard of a neighbor. The incident apparently occurred due to an argument between the neighbors. The subject was on his porch and when CO Szyska approached him, he went into his home and would not come out. CO Szyska repeatedly tried to make contact with the subject, but he would not answer or come out. Positive identification was made on the subject by the neighbor and LEIN physical description. A warrant is being sought for the illegal dumping issue.

COs Todd Szyska and Kris Kiel responded to a dumping complaint of goose carcasses tossed into the Belle River off of Kroener Road Bridge. The complaint was called in by the St. Clair County Parks Department. Officer Szyska pulled the 19 goose carcasses out of the river and placed them on the river bank. Almost all of the geese had been breasted out, and were obviously harvested with shotguns during goose season. Possible suspects were interviewed on the case but denied having done it. Those interviewed did however state that they would pick the geese up and dispose of them properly even though they did not do the dumping.

While roadside with the complainant of a recreational trespassing complaint, CO Ben Lasher observed an ORV coming down the road toward him. The operator was wearing a bicycle style helmet that was not DOT approved. The CO stopped the subject. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Linda Scheidler received a complaint from a Gaines Village police officer. He said he was resolving a domestic dispute when he saw two raccoons on the enclosed porch of the residence. CO Scheidler responded to investigate and saw two full grown, adult raccoons on the porch. No one was home so she called the prosecutor and he said a warrant was not needed. She caught the first raccoon and left the area to release it back to the wild. Upon her return the owners came home and assisted with capturing the second raccoon. The owner said she spent some time yesterday trying to find someone who would take the raccoons that she has held in captivity since July. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher reports that a former hunter education instructor took his son out for the youth firearm deer season and allowed his son to shoot two deer. The subject posted the success on Facebook. When others saw it, they told the subject he was in violation so the subject called and turned himself in. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach received an anonymous complaint of a 23 year old subject who shot a six point buck during the youth/early antlerless hunt. CO Kovach was able to recover the deer from a processor with a kill tag from a 12 year old female. The CO talked with a few other people involved before interviewing the subject. At first the subject provided a story how his friend's daughter shot this nice buck and he helped track and drag it out of the woods. After a few inconsistencies in his story, the subject finally confessed and admitted to shooting the buck during the early antlerless season. He stated he and his friend swapped kill tags between the subject and the friend's daughter so it would look like the daughter shot the buck. Enforcement action is being taken on both adults in this incident.

CO Mark Ennett has been investigating a double complaint involving a trespasser placing a tree stand on township land, with an early and large illegal bait pile. When he was finally able to locate the hunter, it turned out to be a minor who was hunting over the large carrot, corn, and beet bait pile. The father was brought back to the scene, and CO Ennett issued a ticket for allowing the minor to hunt over the illegal bait. Warnings were issued for the other violations. The hunter's father claimed ignorance on the "new"

baiting regulations, and also thought someone had given permission to hunt this location in the past.

CO Ben Shively contacted two subjects returning to their vehicles on the railroad tracks after hanging tree stands in the Davisburg SGA. Upon contact with the subjects, CO Shively asked if they had any firearms. One subject stated he had a pistol in his bag. A check of the pistol through LEIN showed that the firearm had never been registered. The subject stated he purchased it in Tennessee before moving to Michigan. CO Shively also located a small amount of marijuana in the bag with the pistol. CO Shively seized the firearm and issued the subject a ticket for failing to register a handgun and issued both subjects tickets for railroad trespass.